

## Place of Work (POW) and Migration (MIG) PUMAs: Their use in American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files

Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) are geographic areas for which the Census Bureau provides selected extracts of raw data from a small sample of census records referred to as [Public Use Microdata Sample \(PUMS\)](#) files. Place of work (POW) PUMAs and Migration (MIG) PUMAs are also used in the publication of American Community Survey (ACS) PUMS files to provide data on place of work, in- and out-migration flows, and demographic characteristics of workers and migrants. POWPUMAs identify the location of the respondent's primary workplace, and MIGPUMAs identify the location where the respondent lived 1 year ago. Place of work and migration microdata can only be tabulated to the state or "standard" county-based PUMA level.

PUMAs can be built on census tracts or counties. For this reason, tract-based PUMAs have been aggregated to encompass whole counties in order to create PUMA geography acceptable for the publication of the place of work and migration microdata (i.e., POWPUMAs and MIGPUMAs). New codes have been assigned to these POWPUMA and MIGPUMA entities to distinguish them from "standard" PUMAs.

Microdata are published for 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year periods. For dataset periods that contain data from years prior to 2012, the PUMA, POWPUMA, and MIGPUMA codes correspond with the 2000 PUMA geographies (PUMA00, POWPUMA00, and MIGPUMA00, respectively). If the dataset period contains data from years 2012 and after, the PUMA, POWPUMA, and MIGPUMA codes will correspond with the 2010 PUMA geographies (PUMA10, POWPUMA10, and MIGPUMA10, respectively). If the dataset period includes data for years prior to 2012, and from 2012 and after, (i.e. 2010-2012) both the 2000 and 2010 PUMA, POWPUMA, and MIGPUMA codes are used. Code dictionaries and correspondence files for 2010 PUMAs, POWPUMAs, and MIGPUMAs can be found at the following location under the heading "Code Lists":

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/pums\\_documentation/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/pums_documentation/) (see tables for the most current 1-year, 3-year, or 5-year data). Within the **2012 1-year Code Lists**, there is a link to a PUMA\_POWPUMA\_MIGPUMA 2012 conversion file (in .xls format). The Census Bureau does not create maps for POWPUMA and MIGPUMA entities.

2010 Geographic Equivalency Files (for all geographic entities built upon census tracts) are available for each state at the "[Reference Information](#)" tab on the PUMA section of the Census Bureau website.

Note: The 2012 POWPUMAs and MIGPUMAs that are based upon single, county-based PUMAs will contain the same code as the "standard" PUMAs (i.e., PUMA10). The 2012 POWPUMAs and MIGPUMAs that are aggregates of two or more PUMAs will contain unique codes. POWPUMAs

and MIGPUMAs in ACS datasets prior to 2012 do not use the same codes as the “standard” PUMAs (i.e., PUMA00). All POWPUMA and MIGPUMA codes prior to 2012 are unique.

For information about the data found within PUMS tables, and changes made between 2011 and 2012 please see:

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/pums\\_documentation/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/pums_documentation/) (see PUMS Data Dictionary).

Appendix M and N of the following PUMS Technical Documentation lists the relationship between PUMAs, POWPUMAs, and MIGPUMAs for Census 2000:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pums.pdf>.

Geographic Equivalency files that show counties, places, and census tracts that are included in each PUMA for Census 2000 are available in each state subdirectory at:

[http://www2.census.gov/census\\_2000/datasets/PUMS/OnePercent](http://www2.census.gov/census_2000/datasets/PUMS/OnePercent)

[http://www2.census.gov/census\\_2000/datasets/PUMS/FivePercent](http://www2.census.gov/census_2000/datasets/PUMS/FivePercent)

Further background on Place of Work and Migration data in the 2010 American Community Survey can be found in the Compass Products [What PUMS Data Users Need to Know](#) handbook.